

SIAM AND SIAMESE.

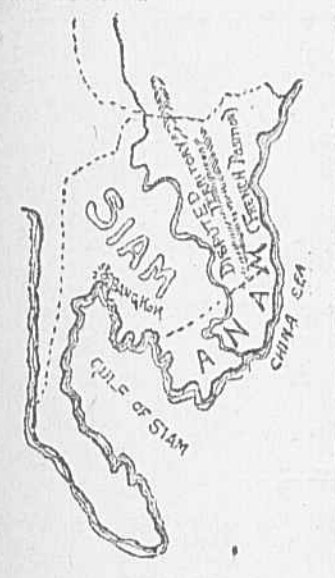
The Cause of the Trouble Between Them and France.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY.

Its People and Their Customs—The King an Absolute Ruler, Though Wise and Progressive—The Slavery System—How Siam Will Fare in the War With France—Only Assistance From Other Powers Will Save Her From Being Speedily Conquered.

The troubles between France and Siam, which are attracting the attention of the whole world and may yet involve other great European powers in war, are growing more serious each day. To those who have not kept themselves closely informed regarding recent events the following account from the New York Tribune of the causes of the present trouble, and graphic description of Siam, its people and their customs, etc., will prove of interest:

The situation in Farther India is perfectly simple. There are no diplomatic complications, no disputed boundaries, no historic claims. There is on one side ownership, on the other desire, and the power that owns is weak and the power that desires is strong. From time immemorial the boundary between Anam and Siam has been a mountain range midway between and parallel with the Mekong river and the China



MAP OF SIAM.

sea; this as far south as the junction of the Siam river with the Mekong, where the line turns to the south west and cuts across the Gulf of Siam. Thus the entire Mekong valley north of the Siam river to China, belongs to Siam; and all south of it to that part of Anam known as Cambodia. Concerning these facts there is no dispute.

A few years ago, however, the French took possession of Anam, including both Tonquin at the north and Cambodia at the south. This was a good beginning for a colonial empire. But the ambitious and enterprising gentleman who is now governor general of the whole territory was not satisfied therewith. Seeing that the lower reaches of the Mekong, already in French possession, were important and valuable, he determined to secure for France the upper reaches of the same stream, and all its enormous basin, as far as the Chinese boundary. No claim was put forward that this vast region ever belonged to Anam. He was too honest to make any such shift and business excuse. He simply said that the Mekong basin was a good region to have, and therefore France should have it; and that a new boundary, of his own making, was more scientific than the old one, which had been accepted on both sides for centuries, and therefore it should be adopted. France wants more land, and she proposes to get it by annexing forcibly about one-third of Siam. That is all.

Of Siam itself and the Siamese little need be said, since so much has already been said in recent years. It is a curious country, with the most advanced civilization and the most primitive barbarism joggling elbows at every step. Emphatically the god of things as they are is the god of Siam. The amiable, indolent, happy-go-lucky people ask nothing better than to go on living as their fathers lived before them. But not, therefore, would they oppose the introduction of modern improvements. Assuredly not. The newspaper, the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, have all been welcomed, and vastly wondered at, and have taken their place in Siamese social economy along with the white elephant, the umbrella processions and the interminable compilation of magic squares. It may not be true, as hinted on a time, that the stable of the sacred white elephant is lighted with electricity, but there are, in fact, many mixtures equally grotesque to be found on every hand.

The present king is a wise, liberal and progressive ruler, yet as absolute an autocrat as the Russian czar. His father used to pride himself on being a constitutional monarch, subject in all affairs of state to the decisions of the council of ministers. But this king claims the right of absolute authority, and he exercises it without dispute. There is no thought of agitating for constitutional forms or for limiting the royal prerogative. Nor does any one think of conspiring against the stability of the throne or the personal safety of its occupant. The king may go where he will, about Bangkok or in the remotest villages of his realm, absolutely alone and unguarded, with perfect safety. There is not a hand in all the kingdom that would be turned against him. Nor does any one think of asking him to change the form of government in any respect. The people are too faithful worshippers of the god of things as they are. Besides that, they are a courteous folk, and assuredly it would be "bad form" to suggest to their monarch that everything is not just as right as can be. Undoubtedly the king would be glad to make various reforms if he were asked to do so, or if the need of them were brought to his attention. But no one will perform this service for him, and so he can only make changes when he finds out by personal investigation that they are needed. He makes such investigations whenever he can. But it is impossible for one man to acquaint himself with everything that is going on and find out everything that is needed by the people. His majesty has on many occasions of late followed the time-honored example of the caliph of Bagdad, and has wandered about the streets of the city, by night and by day, disguised now and then as an ordinary citizen and now and then as a workman, making observations and taking notes. In this work he has met with many curious experiences and has learned much of the life and the

actual needs of his people, and as a result some really important reforms have been instituted. There are those who charge him with insincerity, or who say that he is merely playing at civilization as a child would play with an amusing toy. But to those who are best informed it seems certain that he is thoroughly in earnest in his efforts to improve the condition of his kingdom, always, of course, provided there be a kingdom left to him.

He has, for example, tried to deal with the question of slavery, but even his autocracy has proved unequal to the task. Slavery exists there, says a recent writer, not as slavery, pure and simple, but as a result of the laws in relation to debt. A creditor can at any time seize his debtor and, if the latter cannot discharge his obligations in full and at once, make him a slave and keep him in chains for the rest of his life, or until his relatives or friends pay his debts for him. The enslaved debtor himself cannot pay the debts. In no case does his labor more than pay the interest on them. No matter how long or how faithfully he works for his master, he cannot discharge a fraction of the principal. In case a debtor abandons his nearest relatives may be seized and enslaved in his stead. The slaves are invariably treated with kindness, and no objection can be made to the system on the score of cruelty. No one ever hears of a slave being overworked, and it often happens that a master, finding some of his debtor slaves to be so lazy that they are not worth keeping, instead of flogging them and forcing them to work harder, simply gives them their freedom again. The slaves are also free from taxation. So it comes to pass that a very large proportion of the population are perfectly willing to be enslaved. Men run into debt recklessly and make no effort to pay off their indebtedness, but are entirely willing to be seized and enslaved. The greatest evil of this system is, therefore, in the fact that it encourages shiftlessness and improvidence and so demoralizes the industrial life of the nation. The remedy for it will be found in the growth of foreign enterprises. Europeans settling there hire Chinese and Malay laborers, who are better workers than the indolent Siamese. It will presently, therefore, be found that free labor is actually cheaper and more effective than slave labor, and the latter will give place to the former.

Practically, there is war between France and Siam. How far the republic will push it remains to be seen. That any other power will interfere is not to be expected; and in the absence of such interference Siam can make little resistance. A few French gunboats and half a dozen regiments will quickly do what the king of Siam and his eight hundred thousand men failed to do. France has now some fifteen warships in those waters; none of them very formidable, but quite ample to deal with the insignificant navy of Siam. The French commander is Rear-Admiral Edgar Humann, and his flagship is the *Triomphante*. This is a single screw armored cruiser of 4,178 tons, carrying six nine-inch and seven smaller guns. Then there are the *Annamite*, a transport, the *Forfait*, a wooden cruiser; the *Inconceivable*, a single-screw wooden dispatch vessel; the *Alouette*, a wood paddle dispatch boat, built of sloop; the *Lutin*, *Comete* and *Lion*, single-screw composite gun-vessels; the *Jacquin* and *Moulin*, paddle gunboats, built of steel; and five steel twin-screw gunboats, the *Arquebuse*, *Carondelet*, *Cimeterre*, *Estoc* and *Mutine*.

Against these, what has Siam to present? The navy possesses one protected cruiser, the *Maha Chakri*, which has been designed to serve also as a royal yacht, and which, with a displacement of 2,500 tons, carries four 4.7-inch and eight 6-pounder quick-firing and fifteen machine guns; but this vessel constitutes the whole of its serious strength. In addition there are two wooden corvettes, each of about 900 tons, and each carrying eight guns; and the gunboats *Apollon*, 450; *Gladys*, 420; *Coronation*, 285; *Phra Tabong*, 160; and *Rukit Linga*, 160 tons, together with the small dispatch vessel *Mahat Rajakuria*, and the yachts *Ubon Burakut*, 453; *Vesatri*, 263; and *Nihai Rajahit*, 50 tons. These are practically the only government craft which could be employed in defensive operations. Nor are the land forces particularly formidable. The standing army numbers only about 12,000 men, though of course the whole of the male population is liable to be called out in case of emergency. Every male in the country, with a few exceptions, above the age of twenty-one years has to serve with the colors for three months every year. The government is said to possess over 80,000 stands of arms and several cannon. The Siamese army is to some extent officered by Europeans, and of late years it has largely increased in efficiency, in numbers, and in the character of its equipment. But it could make no serious stand against a French force numerically far its inferior.

Deplorable as war always is, it would be especially regrettable between France and Siam, for reasons of sentiment and ancient associations. It is true that the Portuguese first visited the Land of the White Elephant. But France was first to establish regular diplomatic relations therewith, to send thither an embassy, and to receive in return a stately embassy of Siamese. This came to pass so long ago as the reign of Louis XIV. The "great monarch" had in view the conversion of the Siamese king to Christianity, as well as a political alliance, and he sent to Bangkok an ambassador and a number of priests. The ambassador was received with such attention as had never been paid to any other visitor, and was told by the wise men of the court, to his great wonderment, that he had visited Siam a thousand years before, in an earlier incarnation. Nor was any lack of courtesy shown to the Siamese embassy at Versailles, where, indeed, its appearance commanded the greatest admiration. At that very time, moreover, a Frenchman was the foreign minister of the king of Siam, and, by an odd chance, another Frenchman holds that place to-day, while a Siamese royal prince is now visiting the French republic. Yet all such things count little when once hostilities have well begun. The killing of a French commissioner on the Mekong, the forcing of the forts on the Meinam, and, perhaps above all, the desire for colonial expansion and the erection of a scientific frontier immeasurably outweigh all the fair words of the "Great Monarch," and it is altogether to be expected that before the present incident is ended the map of Siam will greatly have been remade.

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A DANGEROUS LAW.

A Section of the South Carolina Liquor Act Decided Against by the Court.

COLUMBIA, S. C., July 24.—Judge Hudson's decision refusing an order of search and seizure in the case of J. M. James, a Darlington saloon keeper reported for selling liquor, provokes the administration's local organ to say that the judge ought to be impeached and to characterize him as the liquor men's best friend.

In discussing the section of the dispensary act authorizing an officer to search a man's premises and confiscate his personal property, Judge Hudson says:

"If this construction of the act contended for by the plaintiff be correct, or if the act be enforced as its terms demand, then no citizen of the land, high or low, in city, town or county, of whatever calling, trade or business, is safe from unreasonable searches and seizures, and if, perchance, he shall keep wines or liquors in his place of business or residence for the private use of himself, friends and family, the liquors and all personal property are liable to seizure, to abide the result of the indictment or an action for abating nuisance. Each and every citizen is thus placed at the mercy of envy, malice and revenge of a secret spy or hostile neighbor. The dangerous consequence of such license and immunity given to the malicious prosecutor are too apparent to call for comment."

A REAL BATTLE.

Between West Point Soldiers to Settle Their Social Standing.

CRANFORD, N. Y., July 24.—Twenty West Point soldiers of company E, engineers, and a similar number from the cavalry detachment engaged in a hand to hand fight at Nisson's notorious dancing pavilion in this village Saturday night just before midnight, and the result is that a number of bruised and lacerated heads are being nursed to-day at the soldiers' hospital. The fight was the culmination of a feud that has been brewing between the two companies, growing out of jealousy of the relative social standing of the two bodies. The time and place for the combat had been prearranged and the participants were each and all prepared to do battle. The weapon used by the engineers was a piece of rubber hose sixteen inches long loaded at one end with lead. That used by the cavalrymen was a carbine sword and sabre, but fastened together with strong cords. There were two engagements—one in the afternoon and later in the evening, the engineers being put to flight. Village constables who took a hand were badly used up. A number of the combatants had to be carried from the field.

JOE JEFFERSON IS WELL.

The Story That He Was Dying a Ridiculous Falschood.

BUZZARD'S BAY, MASS., July 24.—Joseph Jefferson, the actor, was seen by an Associated Press reporter at his villa here this morning, and was shown a published dispatch which stated that he was dying from a cancerous affection of the throat. Mr. Jefferson laughed when he read the item, and said:

"They seem to be giving it to me in the neck."
Continuing, he said: "You may deny the story. It is absolutely false. I never was in better health and spirits than at the present time and have entirely recovered from my recent indisposition. Such stories are ridiculous and extremely annoying."

THE FORD THEATRE DISASTER.

The Four Men Held by the Coroner Indicted by the Grand Jury.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—The grand jury to-day found a true bill against: Col. Frederick C. Ainsworth, chief of the record and pension division of the war department; George W. Dant, the contractor employed to make the excavation for the electric light plant; Wm. E. Covert, superintendent, and Francis Sasse, engineer of the building, holding them responsible for the old Ford theatre disaster of June 9 last, in which twenty-three persons lost their lives and a large number of others were injured.

Campania Will Break the Record.

QUEENSTOWN, July 24.—The Cunard line steamer *Bothnia*, Captain McKay, from Boston July 15, for Liverpool, arrived here at 7 o'clock this morning. She reports that at half past seven yesterday evening she passed the Campanian, which sailed home from New York at 1:02 o'clock yesterday afternoon with the intention of attempting to break the westward Trans-Atlantic record. The *Campania* was then 140 miles west of Queenstown, having covered the distance in six hours and twenty-eight minutes. It is predicted here that the *Campania* will take a big slice off the record.

Jones & Laughlin's Resume.

PITTSBURG, PA., July 24.—The extensive iron and steel plant of Jones & Laughlin's resumed in all departments to-day, after an idleness of several weeks. The steel, iron and finishers' scales of the Amalgamated association were all signed. In the case of the finishers all have returned to work but President Carey, of the "Finishers' union, who resigned because the union was not recognized. The resumption gives employment to 5,000 men. The situation at the other mills here is unchanged and there is no immediate prospect of a settlement.

Hard Fighting in Nicaragua.

PANAMA, COLOMBIA, July 24.—News has just been received here showing that hard fighting has been in progress near Mateare, Nicaragua, between the Leon revolutionists and the government troops. Five thousand men were engaged in the battle, the result of which is not known here. Mateare is a small hamlet about eight miles from Managua.

Oil Well Supply Receiver.

CINCINNATI, O., July 24.—Judge Ricks, of the United States court, to-day appointed John Eaton receiver of the property in Ohio, of the Oil Well Supply Company, of Pittsburgh. The appointment is at the instance of Edward H. Cole, a stockholder and is supplementary to the action taken by the United States court in Pittsburgh in the same suit.

Ayer's Pills promptly remove the causes of sick and nervous headaches. These Pills speedily correct irregularities of the stomach, liver and bowels, and are the mildest and most reliable cathartic in use. No one should be without them.

Ohio River Railroad Sunday Excursions.
Sunday excursion tickets now on sale to Woodland, Franklin, New Martinsville, Steeleville and Long Reach.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

A STOLEN PICTURE.

The Theft of a Famous Painting Recalled by a Confession.

LONDON, July 24.—Some fifteen years ago a painting of the duchess of Devonshire was exhibited in an art store in Old Bond street. The picture had been painted by Gainsborough and was valued at a high price. One day the painting disappeared, the canvas having been cut from the frame. The robbery created much comment, but no trace of the thief could be found. To-day the *Pall Mall Gazette* professes to have discovered the purloiner of the picture in the person of Adam Wirth, "La Brigid International," who is well known to police officials in the United States. Wirth is now serving at Louvain, Belgium, a sentence of seven years for theft. A reporter of the *Pall Mall Gazette* visited him in prison and Wirth told him that he had stolen the picture. The paper admits, however, that it cannot vouch for the genuineness of the confession.

FIGHTING IN NICARAGUA.

Revolutionists Bombard a Town and Lose Some of Their Vessels.

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, July 23.—President Zavala's overtures for peace have been answered by the revolutionists in a way that could not be misunderstood. The steamers seized by the insurgents of Leon when they began the revolution opened a bombardment on Materna yesterday, where the government troops are encamped. Their fire was returned and two of the steamers were struck by shells from the Krupp guns forming the government battery.

Reinforcements are now marching to Materna, and General Aviles, commander-in-chief of the army, will go to the front to-day and conduct the operations in the field against the insurgents. There will be some hard fighting before peace is restored. It is reported to-day that President Ezeta, of San Salvador, has discovered a new conspiracy against him. Twenty-three of the leading conspirators were shot. Among the persons executed was General Narciso Aviles, of Santa Anna.

A Big Catch.

NEW YORK, July 23.—Giovanni Cavelero, a Frenchman of fine appearance, was arrested here to-day for the theft of bonds aggregating in value 730,000 francs which he tried to dispose of to the firm of Zimmerman & Forsyth for \$55,000 last March. They bore the name of Marius Malati, from whom the alleged to Cavelero said he had received them in a stock transaction.

\$100 Reward.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh, being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

Excursion to Chicago via Ohio River Railroad.

On and after this date, until October 31, the Ohio River railroad will sell tickets to Chicago and return, on account of the World's Columbian Exposition, at greatly reduced rates. Tickets will be good for continuous passage in either direction with final limit for return passage November 5, 1893. For rates of fare, time of train and other information, inquire of ticket agents, Ohio River railroad, or write W. J. Robinson, general passenger agent, Parkersburg, W. Va.

Moundville Assembly Meeting.

Monday, July 17, to Saturday, the 22d, inclusive, Baltimore & Ohio trains will leave Wheeling for the Assembly Grounds at 7:00 and 11:40 a. m.; 3:00, 6:10 and 11:15 p. m. Returning will leave camp station at 6:00 and 9:50 a. m.; 12:30, 4:15, 7:00 and 10:20 p. m. Sunday trains July 23 will leave Wheeling at 8:30 and 10:30 a. m.; 1:30, 3:00 and 6:10 p. m. Returning will leave camp station at 9:30 and 9:50 a. m.; 12:30, 4:30 and 10:20 p. m. Round trip, 45 cents. J. T. LANE, T. P. A.

Change in Time.

On and after Sunday, July 2, train No. 38 on the Cleveland, Lorain & Wheeling railroad, which now leaves Wheeling at 1:50 p. m., central standard time, will leave Wheeling at 1:40 p. m., central standard time. Passengers for Chicago and the west can now take sleeper, leaving ten minutes earlier and arrive in Chicago at 7:35 a. m. J. E. TERRY, G. F. and P. A.

DR. B. M. WOOLLEY, Atlanta, Ga., is meeting with phenomenal success in the treatment of Optism and Whisky habits. Patients need not leave home or business while under treatment. If interested, write to Dr. Woolley, for his valuable book.

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